

are stressed throughout. The formation of goiter in which field Dr. Stanbury has done important work, particularly in the endemic goiter areas of South America and a good discussion of chronic thyroiditis and its immunological aspects are included as well as a very complete review of the diagnosis and treatment of hyperthyroidism in all its forms and the various forms of hypothyroidism. One can unreservedly recommend this authoritative work as one of the best recent contributions in the medical literature of the thyroid gland.

PAUL STARR, M.D.

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SYNOPSIS OF OPHTHALMOLOGY — Second Edition— William H. Havener, B.A., M.D., M.S. (Ophth.), Professor, Department of Ophthalmology, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio; Member, Attending Staff, University Hospital, Columbus, Ohio; Member, Consulting Staff, Children's Hospital and Mt. Carmel Hospital, Columbus, Ohio. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, Mo., 1963. 395 pages, with 249 illustrations, \$7.85.

The second edition is a definite improvement over the first. The arrangement of the contents makes rapid location of interesting data unique.

Chapter II—The diagnosis and management of eye injuries is especially instructive as it increases the reader's awareness of the potential damage from the seemingly minor eye injury.

Chapter III—The diagnosis and management of the red eye is well done. A composite picture of the red eye and the multitude of causative factors to be considered is presented.

Chapter XV—Ocular therapy is brief and concise.

The synopsis is well arranged and well illustrated. It is very readable. A busy practitioner and the trainee in ophthalmology should find this book very helpful.

ALFRED R. ROBBINS, M.D.

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EMERGENCIES IN MEDICAL PRACTICE — Seventh Edition— edited by C. Allan Birch, M.D., F.R.C.P., Physician, Chase Farm Hospital, Enfield, Middlesex. The Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore 2, Md., 1963. 784 pages, 123 illustrations, 13 in color, \$9.75.

During the 19th century in the United States there appeared a medical publication which found wide popular acceptance and gained a sort of notoriety as the companion piece to McGuffey's Reader. Entitled, *Family Medical Advisor*, it provided medical information — often the only medical information — for isolated rural families. It was comprehensive; there was something for everybody, a potion or poultice for whatever the ailment, and what it lacked in depth was more than made up by breadth.

There comes now a kind of Family Medical Advisor aimed primarily at doctors but with something for everybody be he specialist, general practitioner, medical student, resident, or hospital administrator. Throughout the book, emphasis is on the practical; what to think, what to do, even what questions to ask. The opening chapter deals with what might be contained in an emergency bag, listing appropriate drugs and appliances and puckishly noting that "experience and skill are at least as important as the contents of the bag." There follows a well-balanced chapter on Acute Poisoning which in turn is followed by a hair-curling chapter on The Hazards Of Medical Practice. The accidents which are casually mentioned are enough to make one reach for the bowl of tranquilizers. For instance, . . . "collapse has followed a barium enema when . . . some barium has entered a vein and reached the lungs," or, "If the pump of (an) aspirator is wrongly connected it fills the bottle with air under pressure . . . (which) may then be introduced into the chest with immediate collapse of the patient from an acute pneumothorax," or, "Don't put dry ice in (ice bags) . . . it will cause necrosis of tissues," or,

"Paraldehyde has caused serious inflammation when given . . . because it has been slowly converted in the bottle into acetic acid."

Succeeding chapters include acute abdominal catastrophes, emergencies in obstetrics and gynecology, ENT, heart, vascular system, blood diseases, neurology, psychiatry, endocrinology, renal diseases, pediatrics, infectious fevers, tropical and industrial medicine, ophthalmology, anesthesiology, dermatology, bites and stings and emergencies at sea and in the air. A separate chapter deals with Medical-Legal and Other Non-Clinical Emergencies. It is a smorgasbord; one can pick and choose to individual taste.

Thoroughness is remarkable. It includes such nonemergency topics as "How to Bequeath a Body for Dissection," "What to Do in a Case of Alleged Rape," "What Should the Doctor Say in an Emergency," "What to Tell the Patient Who Has a Fatal Disease," "On What to Do When There Is Little to Be Done."

The minor maladies which are often neglected or superficially treated in American texts are given thorough attention. For instance, the discussion on hiccup begins with the homely observation that a bout of sneezing may cure hiccup and hence snuff can be prescribed. There follows a complete list of therapeutic maneuvers beginning with pulling of the tongue and ending with phrenic nerve crush. There is no attempt to buttress statements with a bibliography; the authors speak with a clear authority of long clinical experience.

The conventional American, feeling inferior, uncouth, untutored and unlettered, has come to expect from his British cousin a certain precision of language, elegance of statement and subtle wit synthesized into deft understatement. There are many such examples in this book; a selection from the preface is "Just what conditions might be included in (a medical emergency) is a matter of opinion and the doctor's list . . . will be shorter than the patient's . . ." Another example from the discussion of Seasickness; "Sufferers react in different ways; some like to go on deck, while others will not leave their cabins; some take glucose, others champagne . . ."

The book gives the delightful feeling that England is a rather small place and hence it is important to include telephone numbers so that the reader may have at hand not only medical advice but the numbers of experts or services to call for assistance. The appendices list a wide range of services and experts by name, institution, address and telephone number. These include government health departments, biologicals, respiratory units, reference centers for hemophilia, transfusion centers, artificial kidney units, corneal grafting units, poison information and volunteer emergencies services.

Tidbits are frequent; for instance, the National Health Service is included in a paragraph advising a doctor in the matter of charging fees at sea; to wit, National Health Service benefits extend to ports of Great Britain and North Ireland but do not apply at sea. Another item; "Beware of giving a certificate of 'food poisoning' until proved. It may be wanted simply to blackmail a restaurant." And, when discussing electrocution, "If found in contact with or near a high voltage cable or rail call the engineer; otherwise there may be two victims instead of one."

However, the minutiae of practical detail is extended to the extreme; for instance, should the practitioner be faced with a barbiturate poisoning and is in the position of considering dialysis, he is advised to, "Ring up the unit and give the details."

To this reviewer, there are two disturbing assumptions underlying the vigorous emphasis of practical bedside medicine. The first assumption is that the authors believe their readers to have little if any practical knowledge of bedside